

Carter, Nick Ernest, John Hoover, Luke Rogers, Dexter Chambers, John Massey, Steven Moore, and George Root.

Also to be commended for this outstanding year are the school principal, Mark Massey; athletic director, Fred Carroll; and cheerleaders Christy Carroll, Stephanie Gibbs, Dana James, Brook Garner, Keesha Bromley, and Tracey Harris.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask that all members join me in paying tribute to the Adamsville High School basketball team as it celebrates another outstanding season and such fine leadership and all-around young men.

H.R. 1601; THE INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 1995

HON. ROBERT S. WALKER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 10, 1995

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing H.R. 1601, The International Space Station Authorization Act of 1995. Mr. Speaker, this legislation will firmly establish America's fundamental commitment to human spaceflight for decades to come by committing the Congress to finish the international Space Station on time and on budget.

How often in the past 5 years has this House devoted its precious time and conducted purposeful debates on the fate of the Space Station, only to conclude each time to continue building it? Mr. Speaker, the House has consistently voted to support Space Station's development every time since it was proposed in 1984—under Republican and Democratic Presidents, through four significant redesign efforts, and under equally distressing fiscal circumstances.

In November, the American people voted for change in the way Congress does business. Surely the American people want Congress to stop wasting money on programs and subsidies they can neither see nor understand. But I believe the succession of votes the House has taken over 10 years to build the Space Station demonstrates the consternation over building it, lays only with some Members of the House, and not with the American people.

This legislation, to commit the Nation to finish what it has started, is a new way of doing business. It represents a change in the way Congress does business because it says, "here is our highest space priority, and we're going to finish it." Passage of a full-program authorization for the Space Station will be a breath of fresh air to those who have watched in amazement while successive Congresses have revisited, revised, and reinvented the Space Station year after year.

Mr. Speaker, the American people aren't among those who "know the price of everything and the value of nothing." Human space exploration is an adventure that affects us all in big and small ways. Space is and has always been an integral part of our science, our popular culture, and our science fiction. Americans are committed to a future for themselves and their children that includes space travel. So it is with a sense of triumph for that pioneer spirit that I am proud to introduce this

legislation today, setting our priorities to make certain a future in space for this Nation.

The mechanics of this legislation to fully authorize the Space Station are simple. It gives the National Aeronautics and Space Administration the authority to proceed on its current, baseline Space Station development plan, extending from fiscal year 1996 through fiscal year 2002—for a total of \$13,141,000,000, not to exceed \$2,121,000,000 in any one fiscal year. The authorization is conditioned upon each year's success, meaning that NASA must stay on budget and on time for the legislation to remain effective.

As you can imagine, the best of all worlds would be to fully appropriate these funds in a full-program appropriation to mirror this legislation. We hope this can be done. This legislation is the first step towards the goal of achieving discipline and stability in the Space Station program.

By setting these norms and requirements in law—today we are still only working from NASA's word to the Congress—and making a contract with NASA for completion, I am convinced Congress and the American people will save money. The on-again, off-again nature of making space station budgets has increased the cost of the space station from \$8 billion, as proposed in 1984, to \$30 billion before the final redesign of the project last year. Most of that nearly 4-to-1 cost growth can be attributed to redesigns and fiscal stretch-outs called for by actions taken by the Congress.

Today, the space station will cost \$13,141,000,000 to complete and begin operations, between fiscal years 1996 through 2002. This is a significant savings over earlier designs and projections. The redesign of 1993 was a redesign aimed at cost reduction, not cost stretch-out, while at the same time limiting the annual total to \$2.1 billion.

Mr. Speaker, I believe we have seen enough of no good deed goes unpunished. NASA has succeeded in arriving at a design-to-cost space station that America can afford and in which that all nations can fully participate. Shall we reward NASA's success in this effort by redesigning the program again? If I were not convinced that this was the best space station attainable under the constraints we have given NASA and given ourselves, Mr. Speaker, I would not be able to offer this legislation today.

I would like to stress to my colleagues the compelling need for such a full-program authorization at this time.

First, let us agree there is no cheaper program for building a space station than this one. NASA looked in depth at three radically different redesign proposals and chose this approach in consultation with President Clinton. This is the bare bones space station Congress has been searching for, and it has been achieved with minimal sacrifices in capability. In fact, I am happy to report that the current design will offer more laboratory space and more power than any of the previous designs. But this is not a design that can be trimmed without radical restructure, and that is why the legislation requires a full program authorization. If we are to avoid wasting another nickel, a full program authorized to completion is necessary now.

Second, but also related to cost, is facing the question of human space development. Failing to complete this space station within the safe operational life of the space shuttle

will constrain America to a humanless space program. I submit we are always at a critical juncture when it comes to keeping people in space. The human space program is expensive, always has been, and always will be, until it becomes a normal part of everyday life. Yet, if raiding the space station program as though it were the cash cow to fund other programs within NASA, or elsewhere in the Federal budget, is something Congress wants to do, it must be made aware of the consequence: America will abandon flying people in space except on Russian space systems. If we raid the space station budget, it will cause delays that I fear will extend beyond the space shuttle's planned operational life.

Another situation that requires us to act is the international nature of our partnership. We are committed by this design to cooperate in depth with the Russian space program, and that means we must be good partners not just do-gooders. It is of particular importance to them, to Europe, Japan, and to Canada, that Congress show it has chosen to move forward—not just for another year, but until the job is done. No other government in the solar system undertakes to build something of this scope and scale on a year-to-year basis. A full-program authorization will help focus the attention of the international partnership on those questions that affect the station's operations.

Finally, and this is profound in the context of today's budget battles, President Clinton chose the Space Station project alone to be spared from NASA's other budget cuts. That's right, Mr. Speaker, the President's tax-cut will not be funded by killing off America's future in space. This is important news, since the President's budget proposes significant cuts to NASA in general, but exempts the Space Station in particular. I believe the President has told Congress what I am saying here: Space Station is the highest national priority in space today and we must finish the job.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues in both parties that now is the time to either make the commitment to finish this important project or to abandon it. I believe the weight of the arguments and the success of past votes indicates the Space Station will win our full support. In the spirit of changing the way we do business and in response to President Clinton's leadership in supporting the Space Station as an international partnership, I believe that time has come to commit Congress to America's future: Space Station.

SALUTE TO SONNY DRIVER

HON. THOMAS M. FOGLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 10, 1995

Mr. FOGLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Sonny Driver, the publisher of Scoop, U.S.A., "The Community Peoples Newspaper," which reaches communities throughout the Philadelphia area.

Sonny Driver has always been closely connected to the heartbeat of the city of Philadelphia. Throughout his work in the management and promotion of some of our Nation's top entertainers, Mr. Driver saw a need for the exposure of minority entertainers and community